



Homework Practice Position Statement

As a school we recognise that good, well-managed homework activities help children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful, lifelong learning. Homework supports the development of independent learning skills, and provides families/carers with an opportunity to take part in their child's education.

Homework can reinforce work already taught in class and can involve reading, handwriting, spelling, numeracy and research tasks. Homework should never be based on a context or theme that the children have not already explored within the school environment.

Homework tasks set will reflect ongoing class work based around the Curriculum for Excellence and will be differentiated to reflect the work of a child's particular group or ability. Differentiation of tasks ensures that children work at a level best suited to them and at the most appropriate pace.

Homework is a voluntary task and is not compulsory. If ever you find homework a point of angst there are lots of other ways you can support your child with home learning. Please see our website for ideas.

VALUE OF ENGAGING WITH HOMEWORK

- ❖ It enables families/carers and others to participate in their child's learning, providing a link between home and school.
- ❖ It encourages children to further engage within their own learning.
- ❖ It supports the development of independent study habits and encourages self-reliance, self-discipline and self-confidence.
- ❖ It supports pupils in the planning and organising of their time.
- ❖ It strengthens the liaison between home and school.
- ❖ It can widen learning experiences for children by giving them the opportunity to engage in personal research.
- ❖

HOW THE SCHOOL WILL HELP ORGANISE HOMEWORK

Homework for each class will be issued on a week to week basis and we encourage children to do homework early in the evening so they can wind down before bedtime. Ideally, homework time should be encouraged as an activity where families can work together in a supportive way.

Good communication from teachers to parents is essential if difficulties with homework are to be avoided. Children will note the homework task/s in their school diaries and parents are asked to sign on completion. The homework diaries can also be used to communicate any information/queries in regards to set homework.

TIME ALLOCATION

It is difficult to be specific about time allocation for homework as this should be subject to age and requirements. All times suggested are to be taken as average times and only a general guide. These times refer to nightly output over 4 nights i.e. p1 10-15 minutes per night. There may be occasions when homework will not be given out and homework would not normally be issued over a weekend.

Primary 1 and Primary 2 10 - 15 minutes
Primary 3 and Primary 4 15 - 20 minutes
Primary 5 and Primary 6 20 - 30 minutes
Primary 7 30 minutes

Primary 1

Primary 1 encourages an active approach to homework! - The P1 homework pack includes a sound jotter, a jolly phonics action prompt, initial sound activity cards and a reading book along with ideas to support reading and parental prompt cards. As time progresses, the pack will change to include number activities.

Primarys 2-7

Over the course of the week every class will learn a set of spelling words and children are encouraged to use the strategies of look, say, cover, check

Every child will have reading in some form over the course of the week and reading will be supported by the Blooms Bookmarks for relevant stages as well as teacher directed activities at times. In addition, families/carers are encouraged to support a culture of reading for pleasure so if your child does not have reading homework over the week, please encourage them to read a book of their choosing from the library or home.

Numeracy activities will be set weekly in most instances and will consolidate prior learning. NumberGym may be used as a context to support numeracy development. In this instance a log-in will be given to all pupils.

Occasional homework may involve for example;

- Watching the news with a view to gaining information on a specific subject.
- Reading a newspaper article to help participation in a class discussion.
- Drawing to increase observation skills and promote hand-eye co-ordination.
- Questionnaires, or surveys which need input of information from home
- Research Project/ Personal Topics: Children may be asked to carry out a project involving some research. The teacher will provide a clear outline of what is expected and the project will be set over a number of weeks if necessary to allow visits to libraries, collection of resources etc.

HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT WITH HOMEWORK?

- ❖ Be active in supporting your child's learning e.g. pacing of homework over the week.
- ❖ Ensure there are suitable working conditions at home e.g. not in front of the television
- ❖ Have sharp pencils, rulers and erasers to hand.
- ❖ Check and sign completed homework. Point out careless errors and encourage self-correction.
- ❖ Check the tasks and sign the homework diary.
- ❖ If your child is experiencing difficulty please STOP the homework, take a break and come back to it. Reassure your child that it is OK to find things difficult and that they will not be 'in trouble' for not completing their work. If the difficulty persists after a break reassure your child that the teacher will give them some help the next day. Please notify the class teacher to this effect.

Reading

Reading opens the door to virtually all knowledge. Out with prescribed homework, one of the most powerful contributions you can make to your child's learning is to encourage private reading every night. This can be done by your child independently or if you have the time, you reading to them. Research tells us that being read to irrespective of age can be every bit as effective as reading

ourselves. Nurturing a love for literacy is one of the most important things you can do as a parent- and it will be worth your time and energy.

HANDING IN HOMEWORK

Individual class teachers will advise on procedures for submitting homework and will monitor completed tasks through correction of the work and discussion with the pupils. If parents feel that their child has a problem with any piece of homework we would encourage the parent to indicate this in the homework diary.